

# Division of Gaming Enforcement

The Division of Gaming Enforcement was established in 1977 under the Casino Control Act to ensure the integrity of casino gaming in New Jersey. Its mission is to protect the public interest by maintaining a legitimate and viable industry, free from the influences of organized crime, and ensuring the honesty, good character and integrity of casino owners, operators, employees and vendors. The Division performs its mission through enforcement of the Casino Control Act and related regulations, which were designed to ensure a strictly regulated and economically sound casino gaming industry. Oversight by the Division includes investigations, inspection and audit, as well as criminal and regulatory prosecution. Criminal cases identified by the Division of Gaming Enforcement are prosecuted by the Division of Criminal Justice. For more information about the Division, visit its Web site [www.njdge.org](http://www.njdge.org).

## Highlights

### ❖ **Investigation Yields Arrest for Promoting Prostitution, Drug Sales —**

In June 2004, a waiter at Caesar's Hotel and Casino was indicted on charges of promoting prostitution and selling drugs. Christopher Chlan, who worked the Temple Bar and Grill within Caesar's, was accused of either arranging for the services of a prostitute or selling various quantities of cocaine to bar or casino patrons on several occasions between November 2003 and March 2004. The arrest was the result of an undercover investigation led by State Police detectives assigned to the Division of Gaming Enforcement. The investigation was coordinated by the Casino Prosecutions Bureau within the Division of Criminal Justice, and carried out with cooperation from Caesar's. Chlan, who was fired from his job, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

### ❖ **Casino Robbery Suspects Plead Guilty —**

A cooperative effort by the Division of Gaming Enforcement, State Police and the



*From left to right: Gary Ehrlich, AAG; Mitchell Schwefel, Deputy Director; Thomas Auriemma, Director; Anthony Restuccia, Chief State Investigator; George Rover, AAG.*

Division of Criminal Justice resulted in the arrest and eventual guilty plea of three men who helped commit a July 2003 armed robbery at Bally's Park Place Casino. The three defendants — Eugene Wilder, Kenea Blann and Thomas Boyd — pleaded guilty to serving as lookouts and otherwise facilitating the \$6,000 robbery. Wilder, Blann and Boyd were each sentenced to five years in State Prison. A fourth defendant, Earl Dennis, who was suspected of being principal architect of the robbery plan, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

### ❖ **Money Laundering Prosecution —**

An investigation involving the Division of Gaming Enforcement and the Casino Prosecutions Bureau within the Division of Criminal Justice resulted in the indictment of defendant Anastasios Samaras on money laundering and theft charges. Samaras was charged in November 2003 with repeatedly passing fraudulent \$1 million Interbank of New York "official checks" at the Hilton Casino in Atlantic City over a five-month period, and using the money for gambling purposes. The scheme went undetected for several months because two Interbank employees allegedly verified the checks as valid despite knowing they were fraudulent. The two employees pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and agreed to cooperate in the State's investigation of Samaras. On the eve of his trial in June 2004, Samaras entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to six years in State Prison term. He also

made full financial restitution for the \$1 million in fraudulent Bank of New York checks he passed at the Hilton.

### ❖ **Investigations Designed to Preserve Industry Integrity —**

On an ongoing basis, the Division of Gaming Enforcement conducts investigations to ensure that suppliers and contractors who do business with the casino industry are in compliance with all State requirements, and have had no involvement in, or direct relationship to, illegal activity.

### ❖ **Director Named Head of International Gaming Association —**

Division Director Thomas Auriemma was elected Chairman in 2004 of the International Association of Gaming Regulators, a prestigious association of gaming regulators from 30 nations that meets annually to share information and discuss significant issues that affect the gaming industry. As chairman, Auriemma indicated he would focus his efforts on such vital issues as Internet gambling, and responsible gambling.

